

*Application of: Halmeyer, John
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REMARKS

This amendment is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated 17 May 2005, the time to respond being until 17 August 2004. A Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) for Revival is also submitted. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Claim 1 is herein amended. Thus, claims 1-5 remain pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Gase (US 5,580,177) and Montague (US 5,675,782).

According to the Examiner, Gase '177 discloses a method for managing printers in a network environment including each and every recited element of claims 1-5 except for expressly defining all groups that a user belongs to when the user logs onto the network, or querying the printer database to establish all printers that have been assigned. The Examiner looks to Montague '782 to add controlling access to an entity (which includes a printer as stated on col. 1 lines 13-17) by determining which trustee (user) is allowed to access which entity (col. 2 lines 57-62).

The Examiner contends that this combination obviates claim 1. Gase '177 does disclose a method for centrally updating printer drivers, but it fundamentally differs because it is done with each print request. With Gase '177, printers broadcast their availability to a server, and when a user selects an available printer the server 16 determines whether the driver is the most updated driver (Col. 4 lines 10-19). The present invention is not a print request driver update routine, it is a printer-versus-authorized user management protocol to centrally configure and manage *each user's printer environment* based on group membership, user name, terminal name

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and computer name. Gase '177 makes no attempt to manage the printer environment based on user-authorization data at user login. The Examiner acknowledges this, noting that Gase does not disclose expressly defining all groups that a user belongs to when the user logs onto the network, or querying the printer database to establish all printers that have been assigned. Nevertheless, the Examiner looks to Montague '782 to add these steps.

Montague '782 is a set of API calls for controlling access to an entity (which includes a printer as stated on col. 1 lines 13-17) for determining which trustee (user) is allowed to access which entity (col. 2 lines 57-62). In other words, Montague '782 is an interface to allow an administrator to set permissions for a printer so that only specific trustee(s) have access. (See FIG. 7 and description). While Montague '782 allows the setting of permissions, he teaches nothing about when or how those permissions are later used, and this is the essence of the present invention.

The present invention is an executable client printer management program (PMP) that runs automatically *when each user logs on*. The PMP software is launched from the UserInit string at logon each time that a user logs onto the network. Thus during logon and for each user the PMP program queries a printer database to establish all printers that the user has access to (by designated groups, user, client and station identifiers), and then executes a particular configuration routine for each assigned printer. Claim 1 has been amended to literally reflect this distinction, now reading

"automatically executing a printer management software program each time that a user logs onto said network, said printer management software program querying a printer database to establish all printers that the designated groups, user, client and station have been assigned;

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and said printer management software program executing a configuration routine for each assigned printer identified in said query step, said routine comprising the following substeps..."

Neither Gase '177 nor Montague '782 run any software at user logon, let alone the specific PMP routine as recited in claim 1. The Gase driver update routine runs at each print request, regardless of who the user is, and Montague does not run at all but only allow an administrator to program user-authorization levels. Even if these references were combined the combination would still lack any teaching or suggestion of an automatic logon routine with calls to a user-database to install drivers *and set permissions of printers (both network and local) so that only authorized users can access the printers.* Consequently, claim 1 is believed to be patentably distinguished.

In regard to claims 2 and 3, the Examiner notes that Gase discloses automatically updating each printer (whether local or network printers), including the clients driver, whenever a user prints to that printer (col. 4 lines 17-26). Again this is at the point of the print request, not logon, and is a fundamentally different software method as described above. Claims 2 and 3 are also believed to be patentably distinguished.

In regard to claim 4, the Examiner notes that Gase discloses automatically setting a default printer (col. 3 lines 8-15). Since this is done at the point of a print job submittal, it is done without the benefit of a centrally updated set of permissions (updated at login) for all connected printers (both network and local). Claim 4 is likewise distinguished.

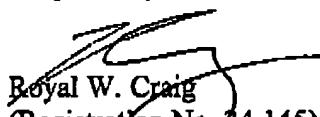
With regard to claim 5, the Examiner takes official notice that it would be obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to delete created printer and connections when the user logs off, since they are no longer "using." The point of claim 5 is how and when the printer

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connections are cleared (at logoff), not just the bare fact that they are cleared. Claim 5 requires the step of "cleaning up all created printers and printer connections *when a user logs off*, thereby preventing accumulation of unwanted and unneeded printers and printer connections." Neither Gase '177 nor Montague '782 suggest this step, and the Examiner has provided no evidence that one skilled in the art would find it obvious. The Examiner has not made a prime facie case of obviousness with regard to claim 5, and it should be allowable.

The Applicant submits that Claims 1-5 are in condition of allowance and the applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for all presented claims.

Respectfully Submitted,


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